

CLAIMS

1. Video apparatus comprising :

- a connector (2 ; 22 ; 42) for receiving a video signal and having at least a first pin carrying a first signal, at least a second pin carrying a second signal and at least a third pin (16 ; 36 ; 56) carrying a signal indicative of which of the first signal and the second signal defines the video signal at a given point in time,
- transmission means coupling the first pin and the second pin to a video circuit (18 ; 38 ; 58) able to operate with at least two types of video signal,
- detection means (4 ; 24 ; 44) connected to the third pin (16 ; 36 ; 56) for determining a characteristic of the video signal based on the indicative signal,
- control means (4 ; 24 ; 44) responsive to said characteristic for sending a control signal (CTL ; 26 ; 54, 66) whereby the video circuit (18 ; 38 ; 58) is forced to operate with one of said types of video signal.

2. Video apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the third pin (16) is coupled to the video circuit (18) with interposition of a switch (6) and wherein the switch (6) is controlled by the control signal (CTL).

3. Video apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control means (24 ; 44) and the video circuit (38 ; 58) are linked at least via a bus (26 ; 54, 66) able to carry the control signal.

4. Video apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the control means has means to modify parameters in the video circuit thereby forcing operation in one of said types of video signal.

5. Video apparatus according to any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the control means has means to modify parameters in the video circuit thereby altering video processing by the video circuit.

6. Video apparatus according to any of claims 1 to 5, wherein the video circuit (18) comprises means (14) for recording said video signal.

7. Video apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the control means (4) is further responsive to a selection made by the user.

8. Video apparatus according to any of claims 1 to 5, wherein the 5 video circuit (38) comprises means (30) to convert the video signal into a digital stream.

9. Video apparatus according to any of claims 1 to 5, wherein the video circuit (58) comprises a display (64).

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10. Video apparatus according to any of claims 1 to 9, wherein the detection means comprises means to count the pulses shorter than 52 μ s in the indicative signal.